

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JIDDA 03512 100830Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
DOE-15 SOE-02 EB-08 ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05
/108 W

-----057888 101048Z /14

R 100753Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2003
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USLO RIYADH
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 3512

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, SA
SUBJECT: PRINCE ABDULLAH'S TIME INTERVIEW

1. WE HAVE NOT YET SEEN COMPLETE ENGLISH TEXT OF TIME INTERVIEW
WITH NATIONAL
GUARD COMMANDER PRINCE ABDULLAH BIN ABD AL-AZIZ, BUT SAUDI
PRESS ON MAY 8 QUOTES HIM AS HAVING DENIED THAT THERE IS ANY
LINKAGE BETWEEN F-15 DEAL AND PRICE OF OIL OR INCREASED OIL
PRODUCTION OR U.S. ROLE IN TRAINING OF NATIONAL GUARD. HE
IS ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT F-15 DEAL WAS IN NO WAY
A TEST OF U.S. INTENTIONS. HE MAKES IT CLEAR IN OTHER PARTS
OF THE INTERVIEW THAT SAG WOULD BE FREE TO CHOOSE ITS OWN
PATH IF F-15 SALE WERE BLOCKED AND HE DECLINED TO SAY
WHETHER SAG WOULD TURN TO FRENCH FOR PLANES.

2. IN SIMILAR VEIN, PETROMIN SHAYKH AHMAD ZAKI YAMANI
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 JIDDA 03512 100830Z

IS QUOTED BY PRESS ON MAY 4 AS HAVING DENIED SAYING IN A
WASHINGTON POST INTERVIEW THAT SAG OPPOSITION TO HIGHER
OIL PRICES AND SUPPORT FOR U.S. DOLLAR WERE CONDITIONAL
ON U.S. SALE OF F-15 PLANES TO SAUDI ARABIA. HE SAID
IN HIS DENIAL THAT SAG'S POLICY ON THE DOLLAR AND OIL PRO-
DUCTION RESTED ON INTRINSIC ECONOMIC PRINCIPLES AND THAT
THERE COULD BE NO CHANGE UNLESS THOSE PRINCIPLES THEM-

SELVES CHANGED. INFORMATION MINISTER DR. MHUAMMAD ABDU YAMANI SAID ON MAY 3 SAME THING AS PETROMIN AND HE RULED OUT "AN EMOTIONAL REACTION TO A CONGRESSIONAL REJECTION".

3. MODA PRINCE SULTAN BIN ABD AL-AZIZ TOLD AMBASSADOR ON APRIL 23 (SEE RIYADH 283) THAT CONGRESSIONAL REJECTION OF F-15 DEAL WOULD NOT MEAN END OF U.S.-SAUDI FRIENDSHIP AND THAT FRIENDSHIP WAS TOO DEEP TO BE RUPTURED BY ONE SETBACK, EVEN THOUGH F-15 SALE WAS OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE TO SAUDI ARABIA. IN CONTRAST TO LAST POINT, INFO MINISTER SAID ON MAY 3 THAT SIXTY PLANES WERE "MINOR PART OF OUR DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS," AND KING KHALID MADE SAME POINT IN HIS LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER DATED MAY 3 (SEE JIDDA 3436).

4. COMMENT: THESE STATEMENTS CONTRAST WITH WHAT HAS BEEN SAID PRIVATELY OVER PAST FEW MONTHS ABOUT F-15 DEAL BEING TEST. WE THINK SAG STILL VIEWS IT AS TEST OF U.S. RELIABILITY AS SOURCE FOR ITS DEFENSE NEEDS EVEN IF IT IS NOT TEST OF FRIENDSHIP AND U.S. INTENTIONS. NOW THAT THIS LINE HAS SURFACED SO STRONGLY IN DEBATE OVER F-15 PLANCES, SAG MAY FEAR THAT IT MAKES SAUDI ARABIA LOOK LIKE IT IS ENGAGING IN BLACKMAIL, SOMTHING WHICH SAUDIS REALIZE COULD BE USED AGAINST THEM BY PRO-ISEAELI LOBBY. SAUDIS MAY THEREFORE BE TRYING TO PLAY DOWN TEST ASPECT OF CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 JIDDA 03512 100830Z

F-15 DEAL.
WILEY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, PETROLEUM, MILITARY SALES, PRICE CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978JIDDA03512
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780198-0189
Format: TEL
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780575/aaaaclo.tel
Line Count: 96
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 935430a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2738741
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRINCE ABDULLAH'S TIME INTERVIEW
TAGS: PEPR, MASS, ENRG, SOPN, SA, (AL-AZIZ, ABDULLAH BIN ABD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/935430a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014